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September 16, 2009

Lester Snow Director Department of Water Resources 1416 Ninth Street Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Dear Director Snow:

The City of La Mirada was disappointed to learn that the Department of Water Resources (DWR) has preliminarily denied the Gateway Authority's status as a Regional Water Management Group (RWMG). The Gateway Authority meets the criteria established in the Regional Acceptance Process Guidelines, and DWR's decision does not appear to be based on any regulation or legislation. It remains unclear why the Gateway Authority's application was denied.

DWR's contention that there is boundary overlap with the Greater Los Angeles County group is a matter of perspective. The Gateway Authority's elected officials, as members of the board of the Gateway Cities Council of Governments, specifically formed the Gateway Authority to address the integrated regional water planning needs of Southeast Los Angeles County. Only the Gateway Authority has the approval of the 27 Gateway Cities. The cities purposefully and collectively did not sign the current GLAC MOU.

The Gateway Authority has a successful record of effective governance and integrated planning for regional water needs. The Gateway Authority has secured funding to improve water quality in the Los Angeles River and is administering a Metals TMDL monitoring and implementation plan in the San Gabriel River. These efforts demonstrate the Gateway Authority's qualifications to be a RWMG.

To equitably address regional water needs, it is critical that the Gateway region maintain strong local leadership in water management issues. We request that you reconsider and reverse the preliminary decision to deny the Gateway Authority's RWMG status consistent with the intent and purpose of IRWM legislation and acknowledge the qualifications of the Gateway Authority as a Regional Water Management Group.

Sincerely,

CITY OF LA MIRADA

Susan Tripp Mayor

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